

BOOK REVIEWS

DISEASES OF THE SKIN. By Oliver S. Ormsby, M.D., Rush Professor of Dermatology Emeritus, University of Illinois, and Hamilton Montgomery, M.D., M.S., Associate Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Graduate School, University of Minnesota, Rochester. Seventh Edition. Lea & Febiger. 1948.

Ormsby's textbook, always the old reliable in dermatology, has been brought right up to date in this 1948 seventh edition. The authors have done a most thorough job of incorporating in it the recent advances in dermatology; almost every page indicates a thorough study of the newer and correct literature.

The junior author, particularly well known for his work in histopathology, has rendered an invaluable service by thoroughly covering the field of laboratory diagnosis.

The bibliography, carried at the bottom of the pages, is quite voluminous and hence of value for careful study of a given subject.

Every physician or student who is interested in dermatology-syphilology should have this new edition in his library.

PSYCHOBIOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY—A Textbook of Normal and Abnormal Human Behavior. By Wendell Muncie, M.D., Practicing Psychiatrist; Chairman, Medical Advisory Board, Seton Institute, Baltimore, Md. Second Edition with 70 illustrations. The C. V. Mosby Company. 1948.

By far the most striking change in this edition from the first is the color of the cover from blue to red. In addition, by employing thinner paper and eliminating the lengthy historical survey at the end, the bulk of the volume has been materially reduced. The convulsive disorders have graduated to the dignity of chapter treatment, and an additional short chapter treats of newer physical treatment methods, namely shock and leucotomy. In other respects there is little difference in the two editions.

One might have hoped that one so closely associated with Adolf Meyer would present a clear and understandable exposition of this school of Psychiatry. In this reviewer's opinion this has unfortunately not been accomplished. One finishes this book with the firm opinion, in spite of the author's protestations to the contrary, that the main virtue of Psychobiology is its eclecticism, its greatest vice the introduction of still another terminology to confuse the student.

The presentation of case material to illustrate the various reaction types is excellent, and the special terminology of the Psychobiologist is sufficiently explained and paralleled with more familiar terms to clarify the classification in this regard.

Those conditions which it is now fashionable to consider as "psychosomatic" are given adequate treatment. The author remains non-committal in failing to give a definite opinion regarding the primary importance of specific constitutional and environmental factors in the production of these entities, which at the present time seems the wise and conservative thing to do.

THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATISM IN GENERAL PRACTICE. By W. S. C. Copeman, M.D. Fourth Edition. The Williams & Wilkins Co. 1946.

This is the fourth edition of a book first published in 1933, and, as the author writes in his preface, makes no pretense of being a textbook. Even so, a wide range of subjects is included, some of which, e.g., the chapter on endocrines, could be deleted. Part I is a discussion of rheumatic fever, which omits mention of the relationship of streptococcal infection to this disease. The chapter on rheumatoid arthritis, only 17 pages, contains a wealth of information.

There are contradictory passages in different sections on diet and many drugs recommended which are no longer used by well-informed physicians in the United States. The book has little to recommend it to the general practitioner; the specialist on rheumatic disease will find in it some interesting material.

EPILEPSY, The Annual Symposium of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. Proceedings of the Association held jointly with the International League against Epilepsy, December 13 and 14, 1946, New York. Research Publications Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease. Volume XXVI. Editorial Board, William G. Lennox, M.D., H. Houston Merritt, M.D., and Thomas E. Bamford, M.D. With 167 illustrations and 56 Tables. The Williams & Wilkins Company. 1947.

This book of 650 odd pages, 167 illustrations and 56 tables presents the latest studies and opinions on Epilepsy by the outstanding authorities on this subject in this country and abroad. The volume consists of 45 papers dealing with almost every phase of convulsive disorders, including sections on the historical aspects of the subject, heredity and pathology, experimental studies, electroencephalography, treatment, special contributions from the experience of the recent war and, finally, the psychological and social aspects of Epilepsy. Especially valuable are the questions, answers, comments and discussions appended to a high percentage of the contributions. The quality of this forum of discussion can be appreciated from the fact that the names of such authorities as Lennox, Penfield, Merritt, Walker, Gibbs, Fulton, Cobb, McCulloch and Jasper appear again and again.

As the third symposium on Epilepsy in the 26 annual meetings of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disease since 1920, the volume amply reflects the wide interest and rapid advances made in this subject since the previous symposiums of 1922 and 1929. Particularly noteworthy are the contributions in three aspects of the subject; the physiological and biochemical basis of convulsive disorders as determined by experimental methods (17 contributions), the advances in both experimental and clinical studies made possible by electroencephalography (24 contributions) and the great advances in anti-convulsive therapy, which have been achieved by neurophysiological and experimental pharmacological methods (7 contributions).

From the standpoint of fundamental pathogenesis, the electrolyte studies of Colfer, the biochemical studies of Gurdjian, Webster and Stone and the biochemical and enzymatic studies of Pope, Morris, Jasper, Elliott and Penfield were of special interest. In another paper Penfield and Jasper propose and adduce evidence to support the interesting theory that the diencephalon is "the highest level" of cerebral function to which the cerebral cortices serve a subservient role. They propose that as a central system, the diencephalon acts to unify and integrate the activity of the more specialized cortical areas in the two hemispheres.

Experimental reproduction of the electroencephalographic pattern typical of petit mal was achieved by Jasper and Droogleever-Fortuyn by stimulation of the massa intermedia and by Chenoweth and St. John following the intravenous administration of fluoroacetic acid. Additional papers of electroencephalographic importance were the frequency analyzer of Grey Walter and the increased incidence of seizure discharges and epileptic foci in epileptic patients when the electroencephalographic recording was obtained by Gibbs and Gibbs with the patient asleep. The papers on Mesantoin by Kozol and by Loscalzo and on the tridione by Davis and Lennox were of particular interest to the pharmacologist and the neurologist.

Because of its character this volume would be of but limited interest to the medical student who might better approach the subject of Epilepsy in a more orderly fashion as presented in any of the several excellent neurological textbooks now available, as for example in "Diseases of the Nervous System" by Russell Brain. For the more advanced student and the physician concerned with the convulsive reactivity of his patients, the volume should prove both stimulating and rewarding. For the neurophysiologist, electroencephalographer, neurologist and neurological surgeon, the book definitely is a "must."

OFFICE IMMUNOLOGY, Including Allergy. A Guide for the Practitioner. Edited by Marion B. Sulzberger and Rudolf L. Baer. Authors: Marion B. Sulzberger, M.D., Professor of Clinical Dermatology and Director, New York Skin and Cancer Unit, New York Postgraduate Medical School and Hospital; W. C. Spain, M.D., Clinical Professor of Medicine, New York Postgraduate Medical School and Hospital; Rudolf L. Baer, M.D., Instructor in Dermatology and Syphilology, New York Skin and Cancer Unit, New York Postgraduate Medical School and Hospital; Abram Kanof, M.D., Adjunct Pediatrician, Jewish Hospital, Brooklyn; Alfred J. Weil, M.D., Lederle Laboratories Division, American Cyanamid Company; Naomi M. Kanof, M.D., Associate Attending in Dermatology, Garfield Memorial and Children's Hospitals, Washington, D. C. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago. 1947. Price, \$6.50.

Office Immunology is a clinical handbook containing the essential information regarding immunologic procedures indispensable in the diagnosis and treatment of allergic and infectious diseases. The authors, combining the experience of the dermatologist, allergist, pediatrician and immunologist have selected with careful discrimination the material which should be included under this title. Controversial ideas and methods have been excluded. The immunologic procedures described, include only those which can be performed on the patient by the practicing physician without complicated laboratory facilities. The technics of performing the tests and the criteria for evaluation of results are described in detail.

The range of subject matter is indicated by the chapter headings. The book begins with two chapters devoted to descriptions of the common technics of diagnosis, prophylaxis and therapy. Then follows chapters on the immunology of infections; the immunologic principle of transfusion reactions and the Rh factor; the respiratory allergies; dermatologic immunology; immunologic management of spider, insect and snake bites; and finally a chapter on miscellaneous allergies. The chapter on infectious diseases contains not only the important facts on the diseases described, but also, a useful compilation of detailed specifications of immunologic preparations, including the name of the supplying firm, complete information regarding packaging, dosage schedules, etc.

Study of this book re-emphasizes the numerous and indispensable uses of immunologic methods in the day by day practice of medicine. Office Immunology is unique in the wide range of useful information included in one volume. It should be a useful addition to the desk library of the general practitioner, internist, dermatologist, pediatrician and even the allergist.

HEADACHE AND OTHER PAIN. By Harold G. Wolff, M.D., Professor of Medicine (Neurology) and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Cornell University Medical College. Oxford University Press. 1948. \$12.00.

Considering the relative frequency of headache as a presenting symptom, the practitioner of medicine should be delighted by the advent of a treatise of over 600 pages devoted solely to this subject. Most of us are familiar with one or another aspect of the researches of the author and his coworkers on the general subject of pain. They have accomplished much in controlling experimental procedures in a

phenomenon which must, by definition, remain in the last analysis subjective.

The first part of the book deals with the mechanism of pain in general. Following this is an exhaustive treatment, from the experimental aspect, of pain-sensitive structures in the head, based on careful observations made during neurosurgical procedures. The remainder deals in detail with the type and mechanism of head pain in those conditions, varying from cerebral neoplasm to dental caries, in which headache is a striking symptom.

Migraine receives extensive treatment, both from the standpoint of the physiological mechanism of the production of its symptomatology and the personality structure in which it is prone to develop. For the consideration of this syndrome alone the book is well worth reading.

The author's approach to the subject is far from being confined to the theoretical; treatment of the patient is given adequate consideration. In all, the book can be highly recommended to the profession at large. For the neurologist and psychiatrist it is extremely valuable.

HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, 1797-1947. Published by the Medical Society of the County of Westchester, 1947. Cloth bound, 193 pages.

The history of this county medical society of over 1,000 members was published in honor of its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, dedicated to its two past historians, and compiled by its present historian, Dr. Lawrence D. Redway.

The first county medical society in the state of New York began: "at a respectable Meeting of Physicians of the County of Westchester on the 8th day of May, 1797—at the House of William Barker in the White Plains—Present—" The names of the eight founding fathers followed.

The book is divided into two parts. Part I consists of an interesting historical sketch of the period prior to the society's inception and through it until 1922. Part II, the larger portion of the book, is devoted to a year-by-year factual report of the society's activities from 1922 to 1947, and includes the records of the articles of incorporation of the society and the reason therefor, at the surprisingly late date of 1935. Since the minutes of the society from 1779 to 1831 were unaccountably "lost," the records of its medical men and events for that period were gleaned from the newspapers of the county and from other sources.

The book is well annotated and documented and will be of inestimable value for future historical reference.

THE ACUTE BACTERIAL DISEASES—Their Diagnosis and Treatment. By Harry F. Dowling, M.D., F. A. C. P., Clinical Professor of Medicine, George Washington University; with the collaboration of Lewis K. Sweet, M.D., Chief Medical Officer in Pediatrics and Infectious Disease, Gallinger Municipal Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company. 1948. \$6.50.

Descriptions of the important bacterial infections currently available in medical textbooks are confusing and incomplete. None has segregated these important disorders on the basis of the etiological agents. This new book by Dowling is a most important contribution. A preliminary section is devoted to the principles of diagnosis and treatment of the acute bacterial infections. This is followed by a detailed consideration of the diseases caused by the various infectious agents.

Only minor criticisms of any part of the work are indicated. The treatment of subacute bacterial endocarditis is not described in sufficient detail in the light of present information. The type of renal lesion associated with sulfonamide therapy which is not caused by precipitation of crystals in the renal tubules but by a diffuse process presumably the result of sensitization to the drug, is not mentioned. This is a serious oversight since this complication cannot be prevented by increasing the flow of urine or by the administra-